

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for managing allocation levels of advertising inventory,
2 comprising:

3 a plurality of categories of advertisements; and
4 a plurality of restrictions designed to limit said allocation levels of said
5 advertising inventory;

6 wherein one or more of said plurality of restrictions are applied to one or
7 more of said categories of advertisements so as to limit the availability of said one or
8 more of said categories of advertisements.

1 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein each one of said plurality
2 of categories of advertisements is designated a pricing level.

1 3. The system according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of
2 restrictions are designed based on one or more demand analyses performed on said
3 plurality of categories of advertisements.

1 4. The system according to claim 1, wherein ad revenue generated by
2 sale of said advertising inventory is optimized by limiting the availability of said one or
3 more of said categories of advertisements.

1 5. The system according to claim 1, wherein said one or more of said
2 plurality of restrictions applied to said one or more of said plurality of categories of
3 advertisements are adjusted in response to demand for said one or more of said plurality
4 of categories of advertisements.

1 6. The system according to claim 5, wherein said demand for one of
2 said plurality of categories of advertisements is calculated using a method comprising
3 steps of:

4 generating a matrix having a plurality of rows and a plurality of columns,
5 wherein a row and a column define a cell, each of said plurality of rows represents a
6 specific day of delivery, each of said plurality of columns represents number of days
7 before delivery, and value of a cell represents number of ad impressions to be delivered;
8 populating cells of said matrix with data;

9 plotting a graph having a y-axis and a x-axis, said y-axis representing day
10 of delivery and said x-axis representing days before delivery, wherein data points on said
11 graph correspond to said cells of said matrix;

12 identifying a data line from said graph based on a selected date; and
13 extrapolating a requested data point using said data line.

1 7. A system for managing allocation levels of advertising inventory,
2 comprising:

3 an ad request interface capable of issuing a request for a desired category
4 of advertisements within said advertising inventory; and

5 an inventory management system designed to provide a response to said
6 request issued by said ad request interface;

7 wherein said response includes availability information on said desired
8 category of advertisements;

9 wherein said availability information is obtained based on selectively
10 restricting the quantity of said desired category of advertisements which are available for
11 sale.

1 8. The system according to claim 7, wherein said request includes
2 date and demographic information.

1 9. The system according to claim 7, wherein ad revenue generated
2 from sale of said advertising inventory is optimized by selectively restricting the quantity
3 of said desired category of advertisements which are available for sale.

1 10. The system according to claim 7, wherein said selective restriction
2 is made based on respective demand for said desired category of advertisements and other
3 categories of advertisements.

1 11. The system according to claim 10, wherein said selective
2 restriction is adjusted in response to respective subsequent demand for said desired
3 category of advertisements and other categories of advertisements.

1 12. The system according to claim 10, wherein demand for said desired
2 category of advertisements is calculated using a method comprising steps of:

3 generating a matrix having a plurality of rows and a plurality of columns,
4 wherein a row and a column define a cell, each of said plurality of rows represents a
5 specific day of delivery, each of said plurality of columns represents number of days
6 before delivery, and value of a cell represents number of ad impressions to be delivered;

7 populating cells of said matrix with data;

8 plotting a graph having a y-axis and a x-axis, said y-axis representing day
9 of delivery and said x-axis representing days before delivery, wherein data points on said
10 graph correspond to said cells of said matrix;

11 identifying a data line from said graph based on a selected date; and
12 extrapolating a requested data point using said data line.

1 13. The system according to claim 7, wherein said advertising
2 inventory has a plurality of categories of advertisements;

3 wherein said plurality of categories of advertisements have their respective
4 pricing levels;

5 wherein said desired category of advertisements has the lowest pricing
6 level amongst said respective pricing levels.

1 14. A system for managing advertising inventory to optimize ad
2 revenue, comprising:

3 an ad request interface capable of issuing a request for a desired category
4 of advertisements within said advertising inventory;

5 an inventory management system configured to interact with said ad
6 request interface by forwarding a response to said ad request interface pursuant to said
7 request; and

8 an availability allocation module designed to provide said response to said
9 inventory management system;

10 wherein said response is prepared based on one or more selective
11 restrictions designed to limit the quantity of said desired category of advertisements
12 which are available for sale.

1 15. The system according to claim 14, wherein said request includes
2 date and demographic information.

1 16. The system according to claim 14, wherein said inventory
2 management system calculates an amount of available inventory for said desired category
3 of advertisements; and

4 wherein said availability allocation module adjusts said amount of
5 available inventory based on said one or more selective restrictions and prepares said
6 response using said adjusted amount of available inventory.

1 17. The system according to claim 16, wherein said amount of
2 available inventory is adjusted based on demand for other categories of advertisements.

1 18. The system according to claim 17, wherein said desired category of
2 advertisements has a pricing level;

3 wherein said other categories of advertisements have their respective
4 pricing levels; and

5 wherein said pricing level of said desired category of advertisements is
6 lowest amongst said respective pricing levels of said other categories of advertisements.

1 19. A method for managing allocation levels of advertising inventory,
2 comprising steps of:

3 classifying said advertising inventory into a plurality of categories of
4 advertisements; and

5 imposing at least one restriction on at least one of said plurality of
6 categories of advertisements to limit the amount of said at least one of said plurality of
7 categories of advertisements which is available for sale.

1 20. The method according to claim 19, further comprising a step of:
2 adjusting said at least one restriction in response to demand for others of
3 said plurality of categories of advertisements.

1 21. The method according to claim 19, wherein said at least one
2 restriction is imposed based on respective demand for said plurality of categories of
3 advertisements.

1 22. The method according to claim 19, wherein said plurality of
2 categories of advertisements have their respective pricing levels; and

3 wherein said at least one of said plurality of categories of advertisements
4 has a pricing level amongst the lowest of said respective pricing levels of said plurality of
5 categories of advertisements.

1 23. The method according to claim 19, wherein ad revenue generated
2 by sale of said advertising inventory is optimized by said imposition of said at least one
3 restriction.

1 24. A method for managing advertising inventory to enhance ad
2 revenue, comprising steps of:

3 receiving an availability request for a desired category of advertisements
4 within said advertising inventory;

5 determining a quantity of said desired category of advertisements which
6 are available for sale;

7 adjusting said quantity based on one or more restrictions imposed on said
8 desired category of advertisements; and

9 providing a response to said availability request using said adjusted
10 quantity.

1 25. The method according to claim 24, further comprising a step of:
2 adjusting said one or more restrictions in response to demand for other
3 categories of advertisements within said advertising inventory.

1 26. A method for calculating a demand curve, comprising steps of:
2 generating a matrix having a plurality of rows and a plurality of columns,
3 wherein a row and a column define a cell, each of said plurality of rows represents a
4 specific day of delivery, each of said plurality of columns represents number of days
5 before delivery, and value of a cell represents number of ad impressions to be delivered;
6 populating cells of said matrix with data;

7 plotting a graph having a y-axis and a x-axis, said y-axis representing day
8 of delivery and said x-axis representing days before delivery, wherein data points on said
9 graph correspond to said cells of said matrix;

10 identifying a data line from said graph based on a selected date; and
11 extrapolating a requested data point using said data line.

1 27. A method for calculating a demand curve, comprising steps of:

2 tabulating a plurality of cells for a delivery date, said plurality of cells
3 representing respectively number of ad impressions to be delivered on consecutive days
4 starting from said delivery date;
5 repeating said tabulating step for all delivery dates;
6 plotting a graph having a y-axis and a x-axis, said y-axis representing day
7 of delivery and said x-axis representing days before delivery, wherein data points on said
8 graph correspond to said plurality of cells;
9 identifying a data line from said graph based on a selected date; and
10 extrapolating a requested data point using said data line.